

## REMARKS

Claims 1-79 are pending after this amendment.

The amendments and remarks presented herein are in response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2006.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19, 21-54, 56-73, and 75-79 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Cotte. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

"A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document, comprising:  
receiving an image of a document index;  
locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specifying an action;  
identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker on the  
document index page; and  
performing the specified first action on the identified first document."

According to the claimed method, an image of a sticker is located on an image of a document index. The sticker specifies an action to be performed. The location of the sticker identifies a document on which the action should be performed. Accordingly, by virtue of the sticker itself and its location, both the action and the target of the action are specified. The present invention thus confers a distinct advantage over prior art systems: it allows a user to specify what action to perform, and to further specify what document the action should be performed, in an easy, streamlined man-

ner that does not require additional user input or interaction beyond placing the sticker.

Neither of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the claimed limitations.

Cooper merely describes techniques for assigning a file label to a file. A relationship is established between an image domain file label and a file name assigned by the computer, so that the label can be employed to assist the user in identifying the file. In particular, Cooper does not provide any hint or suggestion of a technique for performing an action on a document. Rather, Cooper is focused on labeling files.

Furthermore, Cooper actually teaches away from the claimed invention. At col. 4, lines 6-20, Cooper describes accessing a previously stored document having related to it an image file label. Cooper teaches a multi-step process by which a user requests a listing of labels for a set of files, and then in response to the request, the computer generates a display of image domain file labels. From this display, the user selects a label. Such a multi-step process teaches away from the specific techniques claimed herein, where the action and target of the action are both specified based on the single user action of placement of a particular sticker at a particular location.

Cotte merely describes symbol recognition software for recognizing symbols on a document to be scanned which indicate whether the document is to be faxed, sent as e-mail, and the like (col. 11, lines 28-30). Cotte teaches the use of stickers that can be placed on the document to be processed, and further describes "hot zones" for

stickers in which the recognition software looks for attributes such as fax phone numbers and the like (col. 12, lines 5-9). However, Cotte fails to describe any technique for identifying the document on which the action is to be performed based on the location of a sticker, as claimed herein. Rather, in Cotte, the user would have to place a sticker on the document itself - an action that is potentially more burdensome and may even obscure some essential portion of the document.

Accordingly, neither of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teaches the claimed invention. Specifically, neither reference teaches any technique where an action is performed on a document and where the nature and target of the action are specified in the manner claimed herein.

Claim 44 is a computer program product claim that recites limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claim 63 is a system claim that recites limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 44 and 63 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references

Claims 2-19 and 21-41 depend from claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 45-54 and 56-62 depend from claim 44 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 44. Claims 64-73 and 75-79 depend from claim 63 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 63. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 2-19, 21-41, 45-54, 56-62, 64-73, and 75-79 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references. (Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner

erroneously referred to claims 2-19, 21-41, 45-54, 56-62, 64-73, and 75-79 as being independent claims.)

Claim 42 recites:

“A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document, comprising:  
receiving an image of a document index;  
locating, on the document index image, an image of a sticker;  
identifying a first document based on the location of the sticker on the document index page;  
receiving input specifying an action; and  
performing the specified action on the identified document.”

According to the claimed method, an image of a sticker is located on an image of a document index. The location of the sticker identifies a document on which an action should be performed. The action to be performed is specified based on received input. Accordingly, the claimed invention facilitates selection of a target document on which an action is to be performed, while allowing the flexibility of accepting input to specify the particular action to be performed.

Neither of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the claimed limitations.

As discussed above, Cooper merely describes techniques for assigning a file label to a file. A relationship is established between an image domain file label and a file name assigned by the computer, so that the label can be employed to assist the user in identifying the file. In particular, Cooper does not provide any hint or sug-

gestion of a technique for performing an action on a document. Rather, Cooper is focused on labeling files.

Furthermore, Cooper actually teaches away from the claimed invention. At col. 4, lines 6-20, Cooper describes accessing a previously stored document having related to it an image file label. Cooper teaches a multi-step process by which a user requests a listing of labels for a set of files, and then in response to the request, the computer generates a display of image domain file labels. From this display, the user selects a label. Such a multi-step process teaches away from the specific techniques claimed herein, where the target of the action is specified based on the single user action of placement of a sticker at a particular location.

Cotte merely describes symbol recognition software for recognizing symbols on a document to be scanned which indicate whether the document is to be faxed, sent as e-mail, and the like (col. 11, lines 28-30). Cotte teaches the use of stickers that can be placed on the document to be processed, and further describes "hot zones" for stickers in which the recognition software looks for attributes such as fax phone numbers and the like (col. 12, lines 5-9). These hot zones are not used for identifying a particular document on a cover sheet; rather, they identify areas where additional information such as a fax number can be provided. In fact, Cotte fails to describe any technique for identifying the document on which the action is to be performed based on the location of a sticker, as claimed herein. In Cotte, therefore, the user would

have to place a sticker on the document itself – an action that is potentially more burdensome and may even obscure some essential portion of the document.

Accordingly, neither of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teaches the claimed invention. Specifically, neither reference teaches any technique where an action is performed on a document and where the nature and target of the action are specified in the manner claimed herein.

The Examiner rejected claims 20, 55, and 74 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Cotte and further in view of Johnson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 depends from claim 1 and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons provided above, claim 20 is submitted to be patentable over the combination of Cooper and Cotte. Johnson fails to provide any additional disclosure that teaches the limitations recited in claim 1 and incorporated into claim 20.

Claims 20, 55, and 74 further recite that the first action comprises specifying an access level for the first document. The Examiner correctly stated that Cooper and Cotte fail to expressly teach specifying an access level for the first document. The Examiner stated that Johnson teaches an action comprising specifying an access level for a document as claimed herein. However, the Examiner failed to indicate where in Johnson such a step is disclosed. Applicants can find no mention of an “access level”

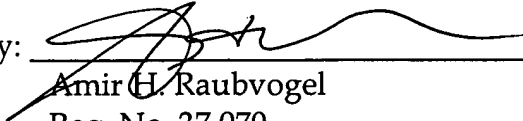
anywhere in Johnson. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the relevant section or sections of Johnson with respect to the claimed subject matter. In the absence of such a teaching, Applicants submit that the rejection is unsupported by the cited references and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

On the basis of the above amendments, consideration of this application and the early allowance of all claims herein are requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants' representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Peter Graffagnino

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